



FACT SHEET

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Sustainability at Monroe Correctional Complex

Operations

- **Local Produce:** Beginning this year the prison will purchase some of its produce from qualified local farmers. It will reduce fuel consumption, provide fresher fruit and vegetables for the staff and offenders and support the local economy.
- **Medical Equipment Repair Program:** Offenders have been trained to repair durable medical equipment such as wheelchairs, gurneys and hospital beds. It prevents the agency from having to purchase expensive new equipment, reduces landfill waste and provides offenders with job skills.
- **Mattress Recycling:** In a partnership with Correctional Industries, the prison now recycles more than 36,000 mattresses each year rather than sending them to local landfills.
- **Dog Program:** The prison formed a partnership with a nonprofit group to start a program in which offenders will train dogs how to be obedient so they can be adopted or trained to be service animals.
- **Food Composting:** Reduces landfill costs and reduces the amount of wastewater generated.
- **Lawn Mowers:** Replaced gas-powered mowers with push reel mowers. It reduces fuel consumption, reduces air and noise pollution, costs less to maintain and provides offenders with better exercise.
- **Kitten Program:** Offenders keep and care for kittens in their cells until they are old enough to be spayed or neutered. Many of these kittens likely would be euthanized if not for this program that coordinates with local animal shelters.
- **Organic Gardens:** Offenders at the Washington State Reformatory and the Twin Rivers Unit have started organic gardens. It provides low-cost therapy and healthier diets for offenders.
- **Water Catchment:** Captured rainwater is now used in some toilets.
- **Recycled Wood:** Offenders in Twin Rivers Unit use wood scraps and donated wood to make products that are donated to Monroe Senior Center and local nonprofit fundraisers.
- **Second Chance Store:** The staff set up an area where office furniture and supplies are kept so other staff members can search for furniture and supplies before ordering new ones.

Facilities

- **LEED-Certified Buildings:** Three buildings at Monroe Correctional Complex are either rated gold or silver by the U.S. Green Building Council. LEED-certified buildings require less water and electricity to operate, use more natural light and require fewer toxic materials to build.

More Information

Visit the Department of Corrections' [sustainability website](#) for statewide information.